

BREWING A LEGACY

Father's Day, June 19, 2026

Main Passage: Acts 20:17-32

Today we are giving all our dads a small bag of coffee. Now, I know that not everyone here drinks coffee. Some of you prefer tea and some prefer an energy drink while the rest claim that you don't need caffeine at all, which may not be a bad thing.

But whether you drink coffee or not, please receive it as a small token of our gratitude for the meaningful conversations, quiet moments, and daily investments that have left a lasting impact on the hearts of your children.

Some of the most meaningful moments and life lessons I learned from my dad did not take place in formal settings. They happened around the kitchen table, sitting with him on the front porch and, as was common in many Puerto Rican homes, while enjoying a cup of coffee.

Looking back, I don't remember every detail of those conversations, but those simple moments formed me. It's where values were passed on, lessons were taught and encouragement was given.

Instant coffee happens quickly but the richest coffee is brewed slowly and intentionally.

First, you select the beans, then you measure the right amount, give it the right grind, and depending on the brewing method, whether French press, espresso, or pour-over you give time for the water to draw out their flavor and aroma. The process cannot be rushed without sacrificing quality.

In the same way a godly legacy is not developed (brewed) in a single moment, it is formed over a lifetime of intentional conversations, consistent modeling, acts of love, faithful prayer, and a steady walk with Christ.

While this message is especially directed toward fathers, the principles we're going to look at apply to every person in this room.

Whether you are a father, mother, grandparent, elder, ministry leader, small group leader, or simply a Jesus follower, God has called each of us to influence the people He has placed in our lives.

Every one of us is leaving a legacy. The question is what kind of legacy will we leave?

Sadly, some parents spend years working hard to build an inheritance for their children, yet in the process sacrifice the very thing their children need most; their presence.

Leaving an inheritance may be a good thing, but that alone is not a legacy.

An inheritance is what you leave *to* someone, whereas a legacy is what you leave *in* someone.

A legacy is the faith, values, and influence we pass on to the next generation.

You will find that the greatest lessons in life are not taught from a classroom or a stage, they are passed on over a cup of coffee, while doing yard work, cleaning out a garage, sitting on a front porch, taking a drive together, or simply walking side by side through life.

These moments may appear so routine, but they are often the moments God uses to pass on faith, shape character and leave a lasting impact on the hearts of the next generation.

In our passage, through Paul's words to the elders who were His spiritual sons will observe four habits that enabled Paul to leave a lasting godly legacy.

These are habits that all of us, whether fathers, mothers, grandparents, mentors, ministry leaders, or anyone with influence in the lives of others, should intentionally cultivate.

1. MODEL THE WAY

Acts 20:18-19 (NLT) When they arrived, he declared, "You know that from the day I set foot in the province of Asia until now ¹⁹ I have done the Lord's work humbly and with many tears. I have endured the trials that came to me from the plots of the Jews.

Paul didn't just teach the word; he modeled it. His everyday life and ministry reflected his love for Christ and the people he was called to reach. He worked with a spirit of humility, never seeing himself as better than those he was trying to reach.

Even in hard times, when the Jews opposed him, he modeled steadfastness and commitment to Christ and the mission.

It's one thing to tell people which way to go; it's another to show them the way by walking it yourself.

A godly legacy isn't built simply by teaching; it is built by modeling. There is nothing more impactful on our families and those around us than a life that clearly reflects that we are followers of Jesus. When our faith is visible in the way we live, love, and serve, it inspires others to follow Him as well.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NLT) And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

Our kids learn more from what they see than what we say. They are always watching how we live our life. They learn from how we treat others, serve God and live our faith.

Titus 2:7 (NLT) And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching.

If you are a coffee drinker, you know that before you ever taste a freshly brewed cup of coffee, you first smell it. Its aroma fills the room long before it reaches your lips. In the same way, the aroma of a father's life fills his home.

This truth is not limited to just fathers. All of us will leave an impact wherever we go whether for good or bad. The way we live, our attitude, our actions and our words create an atmosphere that affects everyone around us.

Again: The question isn't whether we will leave a legacy, but what kind of legacy will it be?

A good cup of coffee isn't known only by its aroma. Eventually you must taste it.

In the same way, our example matters, but our words matter too. If we want to leave a spiritual legacy, we must not only model the faith; we must also speak the truth.

2. SPEAK THE TRUTH AND STAND FIRM IN THEIR VALUES

Acts 20:20 (NLT) I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes.

As fathers, our responsibility is not only to make our children happy but to help them become godly. That means pointing them to a life of repentance and surrender to Christ as Lord and Savior.

It's also helping them to develop a biblical worldview that filters every message, value, and influence of culture through scripture rather than letting culture shape their beliefs.

Our children need parents who know what they believe and why they believe it.

As parents, we need to make sure we do not water down the truth. Good coffee isn't watered down. Neither should our convictions be.

Regardless of our role in the life of the people around us, parents, grandparents, ministry leaders, or simply followers of Christ, our responsibility is to help point people toward Christ and His Word, not merely make them comfortable and happy.

Knowing the truth is important, but truth is meant to shape the way we live.

Paul didn't just believe the gospel; his whole life was wrapped around it. That brings us to the next habit of a spiritual legacy: living with purpose.

3. LIVE WITH PURPOSE

Acts 20:24 (NLT) But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus, the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

Paul understood that he was given a God-given assignment. As leaders, it's important to see whatever role we serve in as more than a responsibility: it is our God-given call or assignment.

As a father, I never saw my role as simply raising my kids to become successful in society. As a spiritual leader, my ultimate responsibility was to help form them into faithful followers of Christ who would make an eternal difference, regardless of their profession or calling in life.

Matthew 16:26 (NLT) And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

As a follower of Christ, I know that the things of this world are temporary, but the soul is eternal. While I may not be able to prepare my children for every profession they may pursue, I can help form them spiritually so that their profession does not destroy their souls.

The goal isn't simply to help our kids make a living and live a better life than we did, but to help them live for Jesus. Careers, accomplishments, and possession will all pass away, but a life rooted in Christ will endure for eternity.

Our kids were created to do more than make a living; they were created to make an eternal difference.

Living with purpose means faithfully carrying out the assignment God has given us.

However, there comes a point where our kids are launched into adulthood. This is where trusting God's sovereignty comes in.

We can be faithful in the process, but we cannot control the outcome. That's why we must learn to trust God with the results.

4. TRUST GOD WITH THE RESULTS

Acts 20:32 (NLT) And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself.

There comes a time when as fathers we realize that we cannot control every outcome.

- We cannot guarantee that our children will always make the right choices, no matter how we've taught them.
- We cannot protect them from every issue or difficult circumstance they will face in life. (disappointment, heartbreak, failure)
- We cannot be with them every moment of every day as they grow older and begin making decisions on their own.

We teach. We model. We pray. We prepare. But ultimately, we must entrust our children to God.

The same God who entrusted our children to us is the God to whom we entrust them for their future.

Conclusion

Every one of us is brewing a legacy. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, spouse, ministry leader, mentor, or simply a follower of Jesus, the people around you are being influenced by the life you live.

So, every time you brew a cup of coffee or tea may it remind you to:

- Model the way.
- Speak the truth and stand firm in biblical values.
- Live with purpose.
- Trust God with the results.